

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 00074 191229Z

12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

/064 W

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R 190950Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7507

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0074

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, RH, BC

SUBJECT: NKOMO VISITS GABORONE

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. DURING CONVERSATION AT SOCIAL FUNCTION, LEBANG MPOTOKWANE, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT, GAVE CHARGE' BRIEF RUNDOWN ON CALL BY ANC LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO OMAOEZAHBRT#SIR SERETSE KHAMA JANUARY 17. THE MEETING WAS ARRANGED AT KNOMO'S REQUEST. ITS PURPOSE WAS TO BRIEF THE PRESIDENT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN NKOMO AND RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER SMITH. ESSENTIALLY NKOMO SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT YET BEGUN ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES RELATING TO A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR RHODESIA. NKOMO TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT HE EXPECTED THAT SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BEGIN MONDYA, JANUARY 19.

2. Mplotokwane commented there that the critical issue, of course, was when majority vote would be initiated. He said he was not too hopeful about the prospects for an agreement because of the

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PAGE 02 GABORO 00074 191229Z

INABILITY TO PREDICT SMITH'S INTENTIONS. HOWEVER, HE WAS WILLING

TO HOPE THAT NKOMO COULD SUCCEED. HERE HE NOTED THAT BOTSWANA HAS NOT COMMITTED ITSELF TO NKOMO TO THE SAME EXTENT THAT ZAMBIA HAS. FOR INSTANCE, BOTSWANA HAS PROVIDED NO ASSISTANCE OR SUPPORT FOR THE NKOMO NEGOTIATIONS. MPLOTKWANE MADE THE POINT THAT MAJORITY RULE DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN ONE MAN, ONE VOTE. HE RECALLED THAT IN MOST AFRICAN COUNTRIES THE FRANCHISE AT THE BEGINNING OF INDEPENDENCE WAS QUALIFIED. HE THOUGHT THAT A FORM OF FRANCHISE WHICH ALLOWED THE BLACK RHODESIANS A BARE MAJORITY WOULD BE ACCAPTABLE TO MOST AFRICAN LEADERS AND WOULD CREATE A SITUATION WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE WHITES CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT. THIS IS THE DIRECTION HE EXPECTS THE NEGOTIATIONS TO TAKE.

3. MPOTOKWANE NOTED THAT IN BEING "OPEN MINDED" BOTSWANA WOULD BE RECEIVING SOON A DELEGATION HEADED BY ELLIOTT GABELLAH FROM THE OTHER ANC. HOWEVER, THAT VISIT, WHICH HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 19, HAS NOW BEEN POSTPONED.

4. COMMENT: OCCASION DID NOT ALLOW FURTHER DISCUSSION. NKOMO LEFT AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 17 PROBABLY BACK TO RHODESIA OR ON TO ZAMBIA. MPOTOKWANE'S "WILLINGNESS" TO HOPE NKOMO COULD BE SUCCESSFUL IS ABOUT AS OPTIMISTIC A STATEMENT AS ANY BOTSWANA OFFICIAL HAS MADE RECENTLY ON THE QUESTION OF RHODESIAN NEGOTIATIONS. HIS DISCUSSION OF THE MODALITIES OF MAJORITY RULE MAY REFLECT ELEMENTS OF THE BRIEFING HE ATTENDED THAT MORNING.

THOMSEN

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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